



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

*Visalia
Redevelopment
Agency, CA*

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Visalia Redevelopment Agency was selected to receive two brownfields cleanup grants. Located in central California's San Joaquin Valley, Visalia (population 108,000) is known as the "Jewel of the Valley." However, in the neighborhood where the brownfields are to be cleaned up with EPA brownfields grant funds are located, 70.6 percent of residents are minorities, and 31.8 percent of residents live in poverty. The unemployment rate is nearly three times the national average, and the per capita income is only 53 percent of the national average. A signifi-



Cleanup Grants



\$236,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Visalia Redevelopment Agency for two brownfields cleanup grants. Grant funds will be used to clean up contamination at the NE and the NW Burke Street/Oak Avenue sites at Burke Street and Oak Avenue. Union Pacific Railroad had leased the sites for decades to businesses that included two rail spurs, material storage facilities, a former auto wrecking yard, and warehouses. Funds also will be used for community outreach. When the sites are cleaned up, they will be part of a government and business office center.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team
415-972-3092

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

Grant Recipient: Visalia Redevelopment Agency,
CA
559-713-4364

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

cant number of the former industrial parcels northeast of downtown are or have been brownfields that pose risks to nearby low-income residential areas. When the brownfields are cleaned up, they will become part of a government and business office center that will include a new City Hall, police and fire headquarters, facilities for the county and school district, an amphitheater, open space, and new residential, office, and retail develop-

ment. Brownfields redevelopment will eliminate health risks, address environmental justice concerns, provide new jobs, generate new property taxes, eliminate blight, and retain downtown Visalia as a vibrant community.